

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on August 11, 2005, **HARLEY LIBBERT**, age 21, of Grand Tower, Illinois, were sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. LIBBERT, who had previously pled guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, was sentenced to 70 months' imprisonment, 3 years' supervised release, and was fined \$200.

The violation took place between February 2002, and May 18, 2004, in Grand Tower, Illinois. Co-defendants JOSHUA T. SMITH, JAMES D. CLOVER, CINDY J. SIMS, CHARLES E. MORSE, MICHAEL R. CRANE, and AIMEE DANIELLE BYRAM, a/k/a "Danny," have previously pled guilty and been sentenced to 135 months' imprisonment, 121 months' imprisonment, 78 months' imprisonment, 63 months' imprisonment, 60 months' imprisonment and 37 months' imprisonment, respectively, for their roles in the methamphetamine conspiracy. Co-defendants WILLIAM E. GOLLIHER, JR., MICHAEL L. REED, and KENNETH W. DEROSSETT, a/k/a "Spaz," have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Grand Tower Police Department, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Carbondale Police Department, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.